

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 IO-13 SAJ-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 AF-08 EB-07  
FEAE-00 INT-05 CIEP-01 COME-00 IGA-02 /111 W  
-----131831Z 032384 /41

R 131230Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0567  
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
AMEMBASSY DACCA 5241  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 8906  
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2264  
AMEMBASSY KABUL 3834

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 626

DEPARTMENT PLS PASS APPROPRIATE AFRICAN POSTS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, IN, UR  
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE PODGORNYY VISIT TO INDIA IN FEBRUARY

1. RE-ENFORCING REPORTS WHICH THE EMBASSY HAD BEEN  
INDEPENDENTLY RECEIVING FROM DIPLOMATIC AND PRESS  
SOURCES DURING THE PAST 24 HOURS, POLITICAL COLUMNIST  
G.K. REDDY REPORTED JANUARY 13 THAT SOVIET PRESIDENT  
NIKOLAI PODGORNYY WILL PAY A GOODWILL VISIT TO INDIA PROBABLY  
IN LATE FEBRUARY. AN ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD BE MADE WHEN THE  
SPECIFIC DATES WERE FIXED. REDDY ASSERTS THERE ARE NO  
SPECIAL PROBLEMS THAT NEED TO BE SETTLED OR DISCUSSED  
DURING THE PROJECTED VISIT OTHER THAN A GENERAL EXCHANGE  
OF VIEWS ON CURRENT INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS. THE  
COLUMNIST REPORTS THE SOVIET OFFER OF 5.5 MILLION TONS OF  
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SOVIET CRUDE OIL ON RUPEE PAYMENT SPREAD OVER FIVE YEARS  
HAS BEEN GREATLY APPRECIATED BY INDIA. HE ADDS THAT A  
PENDING ISSUE SUCH AS THE RUPEE-ROUBLE RATE IS NOT  
CONSIDERED A BIG ENOUGH PROBLEM TO BE TACKLED AT THE  
POLITICAL LEVEL. REDDY OBSERVES, HOWEVER, THAT THE REPORT  
FROM MOSCOW THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS UNILATERALLY STEPPED  
UP THE RUPEE-ROUBLE RATE AGAIN CAME AS A SURPRISE TO DELHI

WHICH DID NOT EXPECT MOSCOW WOULD RAISE THE VALUE OF THE ROUBLE AGAIN PENDING A SETTLEMENT OF THIS PROBLEM. THE COLUMNIST CONCLUDES THAT THE ISSUE IS LIKELY TO BE LEFT IN ABEYANCE FOR SOME TIME SINCE NO DATES HAVE BEEN FIXED FOR THE NEXT--HOPEFULLY FINAL--ROUND OF TALKS IN MOSCOW.

2. REDDY ALSO REPORTS PODGORNYY WILL FOLLOW HIS INDIA SOJOURN WITH VISITS TO TANZANIA, ZAMBIA, AND MOZAMBIQUE. THE COLUMNIST SAYS THAT MODERATE AFRICAN STATESMEN LIKE NYERERE AND KAUNDA WHO HAVE NOT BEEN HAPPY OVER THE SOVIET-SPONSORED INTRODUCTION OF CUBAN TROOPS INTO ANGOLA FEEL THAT THE INCREASING INTEREST THAT MOSCOW IS TAKING IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WOULD HAVE A SOBERING IMPACT ON THOSE WESTERN POWERS THAT CONTINUE TO ADOPT AN EQUIVOCAL STAND OVER THE RACIAL ASPECTS OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICA SITUATION. REDDY SPECULATES THAT IN TIMING HIS INDIAN AND SOUTHERN AFRICAN VISITS IN CLOSE SUCCESSION, PODGORNYY HOPES TO HIGHLIGHT CONTINUED SOVIET SUPPORT TO THE AFRO-ASIAN STRUGGLE AGAINST THE REMNANTS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND ECONOMIC DOMINANCE.

3. TASS CORRESPONDENT TOLD WESTERN NEWSMAN JANUARY 12 THAT HE HAD JUST RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS TO RETURN TO MOSCOW IN ORDER TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR TASS CENTRAL OFFICE IN CONNECTION WITH UPCOMING PODGORNYY VISIT. HOWEVER SOVIET ECONCOUNSELOR KUZNETSOV TOLD ECONCOUNSELOR JANUARY 13 THAT THE SOVIET EMBASSY HAD NOTHING ON A PODGORNYY VISIT. KUZNETSOV IDENTIFIED REDDY AS THE SAME COLUMNIST WHO HAD A SIMILAR STORY TWO MONTHS AGO AND SCOFFINGLY CALLED HIM "A STAR GAZER." KUZNETSOV IMPLIED THERE WOULD BE A MEETING  
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ON THE RUPEE-ROUBLE AGREEMENT IN MOSCOW NEXT MONTH, BUT SOMEWHAT DISAPPOINTEDLY NOTED HE HAD NOT BEEN INVITED TO TAKE PART, EXPLAINING THAT THIS WAS A MATTER FOR THE "SPECIALIST."

4. WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR ANYTHING EMBASSY MOSCOW MIGHT BE ABLE TO LEARN REGARDING A POSSIBLE PODGORNYY VISIT.  
SCHNEIDER

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009